



ARIZONA OFFICE OF
**PROBLEM
GAMBLING**

OPG Newsletter

2ND ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ♦ Indian Nations and Tribal Legislative Day
- ♦ OPG Receives Support Award at Behavioral Health and Older Adult Conference
- ♦ Cooper Dome Newspaper Article



Harrah's
AK-CHIN CASINO &
HOTEL RESORT
PHOENIX

The Arizona Office of Problem Gambling Symposium was attended by 72 participants on March 3, 2008 at the Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix. This Symposium was a kick-off for the National and Arizona Problem Gambling Awareness Week.

The Symposium, "Emerging Issues: Community and Individual Implications of Problem Gambling" focused on effective techniques that clinicians can use with problem gamblers who also have co-occurring disorders.

The keynote speakers included Lori Rugle, Ph.D. and Bo Bernhard, Ph.D. Dr. Rugle led off the morning with her presentation on "Keeping it Simple with Complicated Patients: Problem Gambling and Co-occurring Disorders." Dr. Bernhard spoke on "Vice Capades: The History of Problem Gamblers and What it Means for Us Today." He also presented a two part series "From the Molecular to the Global and Back Again."

Other presentations included Renee Siegel, Executive Director of ABC Wellness, "Legal Issues Impacting Problem Gambling in Arizona." A panel of individuals in recovery from problem gambling shared their experience, strength, and hope.

The Arizona Lottery and Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino & Hotel Resort co-sponsored the event.

SAVE THE DATE: 3/2/09

3RD ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



Lori Rugle, Ph.D.
Keynote Speaker



Bo Bernhard, Ph.D.
Keynote Speaker

Southwest Indian Gaming Expo & Conference

The OPG joined with Tribal leaders and Indian casino managers from throughout the country for the Southwestern Indian Gaming Expo and Conference. An estimated 300 people attended the Expo held on the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation on January 15th and 16th. The OPG provided an information booth highlighting the responsible gaming activities of Arizona Indian tribes and participated on a panel discussion titled "Problem Gambling: It's Everyone's Problem."



Indian Nations and Tribal Legislative Day

On January 22, 2008, the OPG participated in the 13th annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day at the State Capitol. About 800 tribal and state leaders, and other dignitaries attended the event to discuss mutual issues. Arizona House Speaker James Weiers, Senate President Timothy Bee and Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs Executive Director Ken Poocha welcomed the tribal visitors to the state capitol. The OPG staff and booth provided the visitors with information on the topic of problem gambling.

Lovin' Life Expos

The Office of Problem Gambling participated in all three of the 20th Annual Lovin' Life Expos in January 2008 in Mesa, Tucson, and Sun City. The Lovin' Life Expo targets the active 50 plus adults. Over 1000 older adult brochures titled "High Stakes: What Older Adults Need to Know About Problem Gambling," OPG pens, and other problem gambling brochures were distributed during the expos. The OPG also had an advertisement in the brochures with the 1.800.NEXT STEP helpline number.



For information regarding:

- Treatment and Counseling
- Gamblers Anonymous and GamAnon
- Self-assessment materials & statistics

Visit www.problemgambling.az.gov

1.800.NEXTSTEP
Help for problem gambling.



Behavioral Health and Older Adult Conference

The OPG had the honor of sponsoring Dr. Dennis P. McNeilly, associate professor of psychiatry in the University of Nebraska Medical School's Department of Psychiatry Education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He was the opening speaker for the 2008 Behavioral Health and Older Adult Conference which was held at the Tucson Convention Center on February 22, 2008.

Dr. McNeilly, who is the current President of the National Council on Problem Gambling, spoke on "Assessing the Older Problem Gambler." His presentation provided participants with assessment tools and a description of problems associated with older adults who access problem gambling treatment.

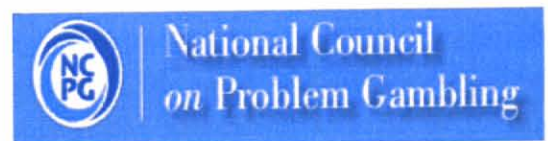
The conference provided the 400 participants with an opportunity to learn about becoming an OPG treatment provider and they received literature on problem gambling at the exhibitor section.

The OPG received a plaque by Patricia York of Catholic Social Service in recognition of our "Contribution and Support."



Federal Problem Gambling Data Meeting

The OPG participated in a two-day session on January 16th and 17th sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Division of State and Community Technical Assistance, in collaboration with the Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators and the National Council on Problem Gambling. The purpose of this meeting was to develop for the first time a recommended National Data Set that could be collected from persons seeking problem gambling treatment. State administrators of problem gambling services were invited to this meeting along with the individuals responsible for data collection. The results of this meeting will be developed into a presentation for the National Council on Problem Gambling's 22nd National Conference to be held in June 2008. This pilot project will serve as a roadmap for the development of problem gambling treatment data systems across the country. Other states that participated were: California, Delaware, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Washington.



Women's Expo

The OPG was an exhibitor at the 16th Annual 3TV Women's Expo, held at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona on April 19th and 20th. The Office of Problem Gambling distributed 3,500 pamphlets about "Problem Gambling Warning Signs" to participants along with pens and mints.

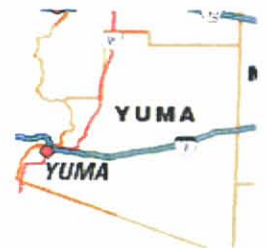


Tucson Medical Center

On April 15, 2008 the OPG staff provided a presentation on "Older Adults and Problem Gambling" at the Tucson Medical Center. The audience consisted of approximately 30 senior volunteers who worked in the hospital's Senior Volunteer Services department. The group wanted to learn about the topic so they can watch for the warning signs and symptoms when working with other seniors.

Yuma Training

A two day OPG Training on General Knowledge and Assessment of problem gambling behavior was held on April 11 and 12, 2008 in Yuma. This is the first time a training was held in Yuma with the purpose of attracting future OPG treatment providers in this area. The training was attended by 9 individuals from the local probation office, a homeless shelter, and private practices. The participants reported being 100% satisfied or very satisfied with the training. Based on the success of this two day event, the OPG sponsored three more days of training June 3rd, 4th, and 5th. As a result of these efforts, there are now 7 counseling professionals who have completed the Phase I training series. Most participants felt this training was needed in the area and indicated they would strongly encourage colleagues to attend future OPG sponsored trainings.



2008 Governor's Conference on Aging

The OPG had the honor to be invited again this year to participate in the 2008 Governor's Conference on Aging. The conference was titled "Myth Busters: Breaking the Myths of Aging" hosted by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging and the Department of Economic Security Division of Aging & Adult Services. The conference was held at the Mesa Convention Center on May 14th -16th. The OPG distributed its brochure "High Stakes: What Older Adults Need to Know About Problem Gambling." The Office also networked with other educational agencies including retirement communities in both Flagstaff and Tucson.



Problem Gambling Pascua Yaqui Presentations

The OPG met with Casino of the Sun/Casino Del Sol during Arizona Problem Gambling Awareness Week to provide the casinos and employees with problem gambling information. Brochures for "What is Problem Gambling" were placed in both casinos. Discussions were started on how the OPG can assist the casino with further trainings and the use of the 1.800.NEXT STEP signage.

Maria Lopez, Acting Executive Director of the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Gaming Office, asked the OPG to speak about the signs and symptoms of problem gambling, how it affects the family, and help for problem gamblers. That presentation occurred on April 11, 2008.



Lottery Support of Problem Gambling

The Lottery has partnered with the Arizona Office of Problem Gambling to get the message out that there is help and hope for problem gambling. While most Arizonans who gamble show no signs of having a disorder, a study commissioned by the Lottery revealed that between two and three percent of Arizona adults may have a gambling problem. The Lottery uses various means to get the word out that help is available.

The statewide problem gambling helpline—1.800 NEXT STEP—is printed on the back of every lottery ticket and displayed at over 2700 lottery vendor terminals throughout the state. The Lottery distributes information brochures from the Office of Problem Gambling at events throughout the year and includes on every page of the Lottery's website a link to the Office of Problem Gambling's home page. These links account for most traffic to our website (www.problemgambling.az.gov).

As part of this year's Arizona Problem Gambling Awareness Week (during the early part of March), the Lottery co-sponsored a problem gambling symposium and included special messaging at vendor locations and

Lottery Support of Problem Gambling Continued

at Lottery headquarters to draw attention to the special week. The Lottery also recently arranged for a new problem gambling public service announcement to be shown during the Suns games.

These developments were reported in the June issue of the State Employee Newspaper "The Copper Dome."

"We are grateful that from all indications the vast majority of our patrons play responsibly," says Art Macias, Lottery Director, "but knowing that some people suffer from a gambling disorder, we have chosen to partner with the Office of Problem

Gambling to be sure that those who need help know where to get it."

With the Lottery and Tribal contributions the Office funds out-patient problem gambling treatment, training, the state helpline, and provides prevention and education programs throughout Arizona. We value our relationship with the Lottery. Not only does it provide substantial funding for our programs, its commitment to the issues of responsible gambling and helping problem gamblers is exemplary.



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